



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

Update



TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers & Laboratories
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RE: **2011-12 Influenza Vaccine Guidance Update**

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Recommendations for Vaccination

The 2011-12 U.S. seasonal influenza vaccine virus strains are identical to those contained in the 2010-11 vaccine. These include A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens.

The full guidance document on influenza vaccine recommendations is located here:

(http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6033a3.htm?s_cid=mm6033a3_w)

Highlights of the 2011 recommendations:

- CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older.
- To permit time for production of protective antibody levels, vaccination should occur before onset of influenza activity in the community. To avoid missed opportunities, providers should offer vaccination **as soon as vaccine is available**, and should continue to offer the vaccine throughout the influenza season to unvaccinated persons.
- Although influenza vaccine strains for the 2011-12 season are unchanged, annual vaccination is recommended even for those who received the vaccine during the 2010-2011 flu season. While waning immunity necessitates revaccination, a September vaccination is still protective throughout the flu season. Don't miss an opportunity to vaccinate a patient, even during the early fall.
- Children aged 6 months through 8 years require 2 doses of influenza vaccine (administered a minimum of 4 weeks apart) during their first season of vaccination.

